



Motorcycle Safety: A Soldier's Guide



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Why Should I Care?

- **MOTORCYCLES AND BICYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE AROUND US**
- **On the road, motorcyclists and bicyclists are much harder to see than automobiles**
- **Motorcycles and Bicycles must obey all rules of the road**
- **Always be alert to your surroundings**
- **Expect the unexpected**



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Motor Vehicle Operators

- **Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Bicycles all share the same road**
 - **Size differences make them two-wheelers harder to spot**
 - **Two-wheelers have different vulnerabilities**
- **Take care when turning right at intersections. Riders often move forward next to the motor vehicle when turning right.**
 - **Double check mirrors and blind spots**
 - **Some cyclists weave in and out of traffic**
- **Danger may come at you from unexpected directions**
- ***Car and Truck drivers:* When following a motorcycle, double the TWO-SECOND rule.**



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Motorcycle

Registration

- **To register a motorcycle or moped at Fort Lewis you need:**
 - **Valid state vehicle registration**
 - **Valid state operator's license with motorcycle endorsement as required by the issuing state**
 - **Valid insurance coverage**
 - **Valid ID card**
 - **Proof of completion (certificate) of an Army-approved motorcycle course.**



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Motorcycle Training

- **AR 385-55, Appendix B is the source**
- **One-time requirement to complete an approved course**
- **Proof of completion means a card or certificate**
- **Army-approved means it follows the Motorcycle Safety Foundation program as a minimum**
- **Any questions about what's approved, call Safety**



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Local Motorcycle Safety Training

- **If you can't prove completion of an approved course, you can go locally.**
- **Both the basic and advanced courses are available from area vendors (\$100).**
- **Safety will pay tuition, if you bring a signed training request (DD form 1556) from the unit/activity to the Safety Office before the training, followed by proof of completion.**
- **You can also enroll on your own for the course and pay the \$ out of pocket.**



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Required Protective Equipment

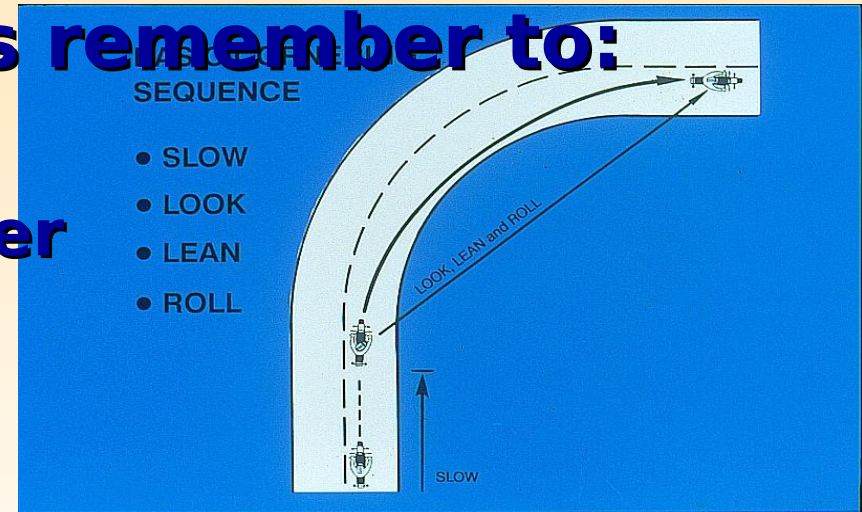
- **On Fort Lewis, each motorcycle operator (*not only soldiers*) must wear the following while driving a motorcycle on-post:**
 - **Properly fastened Helmet, DOT approved.**
 - **Eye protection (Clear goggles/Face shield).**
 - **Clothing (long sleeve shirt, long pants, and full-fingered gloves).**
 - **High visibility garments (bright color for day and retro-reflective for nights).**
 - **Footwear (over the ankle shoes).**
- **Off-post, the requirements still apply to soldiers and on-duty civilian employees.**

Other Requirements

- **Government and privately owned motorcycles registered at Fort Lewis must have two rearview mirrors (one mirror on each side).**
- **Motorcycles and mopeds operating on Fort Lewis must have their headlights turned on at all times.**
- **The use of headphones or earphones while driving a motorcycle or moped at Fort Lewis is prohibited.**

Riding Reminders

- **Always be careful of sand, dirt, loose gravel or poor road conditions, especially when going around corners.**
- **When turning corners remember to:**
 - **Slow down**
 - **Look through the corner**
 - **Lean into the turn**
 - **Roll on the throttle**



Always Ride Defensively

Old Motorcyclists:

- **ALWAYS DRIVE DEFENSIVELY**
 - **SEARCH: Scan and Identify**
 - **PREDICT**
 - **ACT: Decide and Execute**
- ➡ • **ALWAYS remember that 4-wheeled vehicles are bigger than you (They will prevail without fail in an accident)**



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Off-Road Motorcyclists

- **MAINTAIN.** Make sure the dirt bike is in good operating condition.
- **WATCH.** Curves, Hill tops, Rock formations, Trees, someone else might be there.
- **ALWAYS** ride with a group of two or more.
- **NEVER** ride alone in the desert.
- **WATER.** Bring plenty.
- **KNOW.** Be familiar with the terrain. Roads can change overnight due to run-off from seasonal storms. Also the number of riders going over the same jump can change conditions.
- **RIDE WITHIN YOUR LIMITS**



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Off-road Motorcycle Protective Gear

- **Helmet (Duh.)**
- **Knee/shin guards, chest protectors and padded, full-fingered off-road-vehicle gloves.**
- **Impact-resistant goggles or full-face shield.**
- **Long-sleeved shirts or jackets and long trousers.**
- **Reflective clothing or material.**
- **Sturdy footwear. Leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes.**



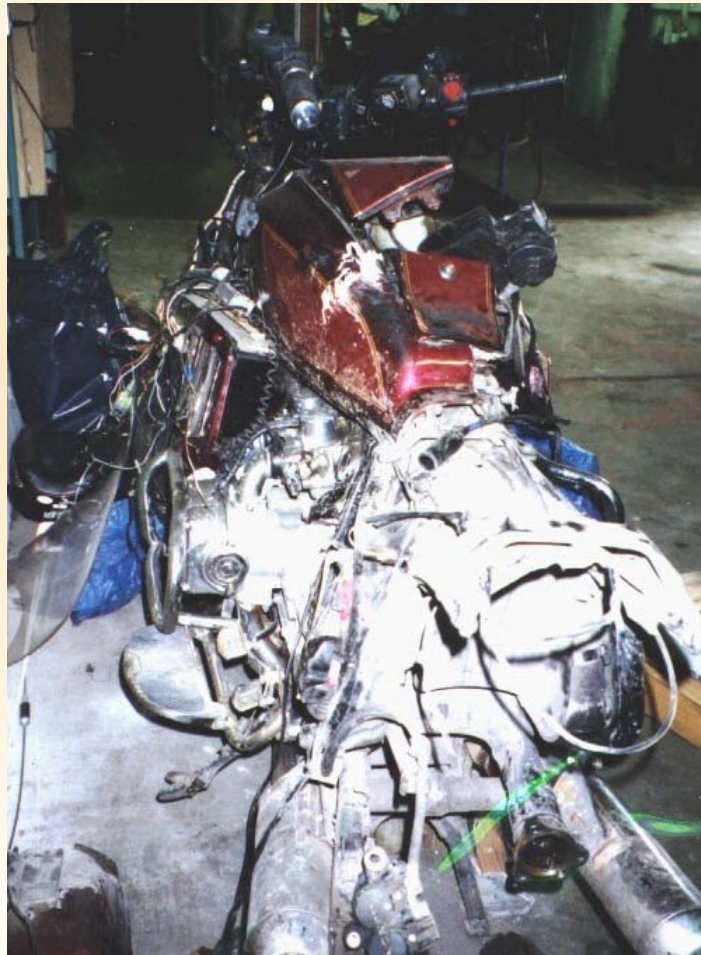
Attacking the Problem

- **PERSONAL DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY**
- **Put Risk Management to work. Examples:**
 - **Identify hazards and assess the risk, such as experience, weather and traffic conditions.**
 - **Implement control measures such as completing the required training.**
 - **Help identify untrained motorcyclists.**
 - **Don't loan your bike.**



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Don't Let Us Meet You Like This





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Motorcycle Safety
Assistance

- **For Further Assistance, Please call or visit the Fort Lewis Safety Office, Bldg 2007A, Room 214.**
- **Commercial: 253-967-3079/6764**
- **DSN: 357-3079/6764**
- **FAX: 253-967-3966**